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P12, Bill 27

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Date: April 8, 2016

To: Chair & Members of the Honolulu City Council

From: Representative Cynthia Thielen, State House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Thielen", written over the "From:" line.

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 27
TO AMEND CHAPTER 14, CHAPTER 18, and CHAPTER 22, REVISED
ORDINANCES OF HONOLULU 1990, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO
INCENTIVES FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS PRODUCTION.

The purpose of this ordinance is to temporarily exempt "accessory dwelling units," as defined in Section 21-10.1, from certain fees and to permanently exempt accessory dwelling units from the requirement to provide or dedicate land for park and playground purposes. The intent of this ordinance is to provide incentives to stimulate the creation of accessory dwelling units, in order to increase the number of affordable rental units and to help alleviate Honolulu's housing shortage.

I would like to testify in strong support of the Bill 27 that would waive certain fees for homeowners wishing to build an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). (For disclosure purposes, I have an ADU permit)

In discussing this with constituents, most residents are unable to afford the significant fees to build the ADU on top of the cost of construction of the units. While many of us agree with the City Council that ADUs can help alleviate the significant shortage of rentals in our community, the onerous fees stop residents from constructing this needed long term housing. Accordingly, Bill 27 lets everyone move forward in creating affordable housing without breaking the bank.

As a longtime advocate of affordable housing, I strongly support this economic incentive to build more rental units in our communities. Fee waivers can and will promote sustainable development and increase our rental housing pool, which is desperately needed to help eliminate the housing crisis in Honolulu.

MISC. COM. 1240

Council